

Message Mates

Title: Spiritual Warfare Prayer

- Imagine a house that looks great on the outside, but on the inside is filled with rubbish, that in turn leads to many rats residing there. You can either keep catching the rats, or you can get rid of the rubbish and then the rats will go. People can be like that house, having a great external appearance, but having sins that may allow Satan's spiritual helpers, those that the bible calls demons, to hassle them.
- The bible shows us there are two spiritual kingdoms (Col 1:13), the kingdom of darkness ruled by Satan, and the Kingdom of God ruled by Jesus, also referred to as the Kingdom of light. Evil and sin can originate from three sources, the flesh, the world and the devil. Sins of the flesh are personal and originate from within, sins of the world come from a social or outside source and sins of the devil have a direct spiritual origin.
- We can respond to sins of the flesh and world by confession of our sins and receiving forgiveness, believing the truth from God and discovering your God-given identity as a son or daughter of God. Invite the Holy Spirit to help you discern what is true and what are lies that you are believing about yourself. We can respond to sins from a spiritual origin by addressing them directly in the name of Jesus Christ.
- Luke 11:24-26 shows us that our lives should be swept clean and put in order. We do this by taking out the rubbish of sin and taking up the resources of heaven. This includes continual filling with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) and calling on the heavenly angels (Hebrews 1:14, Psalm 103:20,21).
- When you pray the Lord's Prayer, you are praying for God's Kingdom to prevail and God's will to be done. Take up victory in our life through spiritual warfare prayer by taking out the rubbish of sin and taking up the resources of heaven including the Holy Spirit and God's angels.

Some Questions to Consider

1. Have you ever spoken negative words over yourself, like "I'll never be good enough"? Have you stopped and considered if these words may have impacted you or limited what you could have done? Or have you seen the impact of similar statements on other people?
2. Read Ephesians 2:1-3. It shows us that transgressions and sins can originate from the ways of the world (world), the ruler of the kingdom of air (spirit at work in the disobedient – Satan) or the cravings of the flesh (flesh). Discuss times where you have been aware of sin that has originated from one of these sources.
3. Have you ever experienced a time when you had been believing a lie about yourself, and then it was revealed by someone, Scripture or the Holy Spirit as a lie? What did

you do and were you able to swap the lie for truth about your God-given identity? (or are you now in the process of acknowledging a truth? If so, can you confess believing the lie as sin and ask the Holy Spirit to help you be the person God intends you to be?)

4. Read Mark 6:6,7, 12,13. Jesus gave his disciples authority over demonic spirits. Did you know that you have such authority? Have you ever used that authority in your own personal situation, using expressions like "In Jesus name, I command you to be silent"?
5. Not only do we need to take out the rubbish, we can take up the resources of heaven. Invite the Holy Spirit to continue filling you. Invite the Holy Spirit to give you wisdom and discernment so that you can know truth and how to respond in areas of spiritual warfare.
6. Have you ever prayed and asked God to send his angels for your provision or protection? What has been your experience in this area?

Prayer:

This message can be summarised as "Take victory in your life through prayer, by taking out the rubbish and taking up the resources of heaven."

Pray asking God to reveal areas of rubbish (sin) in your life that need to be got rid of.

Confess it as sin and receive forgiveness.

Ask the Holy Spirit to help you replace that lie (or sin) with new ways of thinking and living.

Give thanks that Jesus has made victory available to you.